**Scarcity of water in the country**

†3028. SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during rainy season in the country water harvesting can be carried on only for 30 days;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that storage capacity through water harvesting in the country is just 200 cubic metre per capita at present;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that due to less storage capacity, the problem of scarcity of water in the country is mounting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) There is large temporal variation in the rainfall and about 75% of the rainfall occurs during the monsoon period (June to October) and that too from a few spells of intense rainfall. The water flowing during this period is stored in the reservoir and used in the non-monsoon period.

(c) and (d) The total storage capacity created in the country is 213 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). Therefore, the per capita storage capacity is 207 cubic metre.

(e) In view of large temporal variation in availability of water resources, it is necessary to conserve the water and create more storage capacity for meeting the future requirements.

**Meetings of Joint River Commission between India and Bangladesh**

3029. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of decisions taken at the recent meetings of Joint River Commission between India and Bangladesh;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have announced its commitment to implement the decision;

(c) whether the action by Government would substantially reduce the risks of floods and soil erosion in several Indian territories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) 36th meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission was held at Dhaka from September 19-21, 2005. It was decided that Ministers of Water Resources of both the countries would personally undertake visits to all sites of river bank protection, minor lift irrigation and drinking water supply schemes along the concerned common/border rivers and Ichamati river to assess situation on the ground in order to give relevant decision on the future course of action to be undertaken by the two countries on their specific concerns.

(b) to (d) Based on the decision of the above meeting, the lists of sites have been exchanged between both the countries. The tentative programme of joint visit of Ministers of Water Resource of both the countries has been communicated to Government of Bangladesh. The implementation of concerned works/schemes proposed by Indian side will depend on the decisions taken after the joint visit of Ministers.

**Loss of lives and property due to flood in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh**

†3030. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of loss of life and property in the villages situated near Gangi, Tamsa and other rivers due to floods in August-September, 2005 in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details of steps being taken by Government to save the life and property of people of those villages and cities which are situated on the banks of rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per the information

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.